

IN THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~11~~ 29, wherein:

said thermoplastic material from which said end cap is fabricated comprises a polyetheretherketone (**PEEK**) polymer.

13. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~11~~ 29, wherein:

said means for fixedly securing said substantially disk-shaped member to said nozzle retainer [means for mounting said nozzle member upon the fluid dispensing implement] comprises an annular rib member projecting axially away from said front face of said substantially disk-shaped member and

having threaded means incorporated upon an external peripheral wall surface thereof for threadedly engaging threaded means incorporated upon an internal peripheral wall surface of said nozzle retainer [means for mounting said nozzle member upon the fluid dispensing implement].

14. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~11~~ 29, wherein:

an external peripheral surface of said substantially disk-shaped member is knurled so as to facilitate threading and unthreading of said substantially disk-shaped member from said nozzle retainer [means for mounting said nozzle member upon the fluid dispensing implement].

15. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~11~~ 29, further comprising:

said air passages are defined within said substantially [axial central portion of said substantially] disk-shaped member at positions adjacent to said aperture defined

within said substantially axially central portion of said substantially disk-shaped member, and through which said tip portion of said nozzle member can project, for providing integrated fluid flow with the fluid being dispensed by the fluid dispensing nozzle assembly.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~16~~ 29, wherein:

said air fitting ring member is fabricated from a thermoplastic material comprising a polyetheretherketone (PEEK) polymer.

18. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~11~~ 29, wherein:

said fluid dispensing nozzle member and said [means

for mounting said] fluid dispensing nozzle [member upon the fluid dispensing implement] adaptor are coaxially aligned with respect to each other.

19. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~11~~ 29, wherein:

said fluid dispensing nozzle member and said [means for mounting said] fluid dispensing nozzle [member upon the fluid dispensing implement] adaptor are disposed substantially perpendicular with respect to each other.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~20~~ 33, wherein:

said thermoplastic material from which said end cap is fabricated comprises a polyetheretherketone (PEEK)

polymer.

22. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~20~~ 33, wherein:

said means for fixedly securing said substantially disk-shaped member to said nozzle retainer [means for mounting said nozzle member upon the hot melt adhesive dispensing implement] comprises an annular rib member projecting axially away from said front face of said substantially disk-shaped member and having threaded means incorporated upon an external peripheral wall surface thereof for threadedly engaging threaded means incorporated upon an internal peripheral wall surface of said nozzle retainer [means for mounting said nozzle member upon the hot melt adhesive dispensing implement].

23. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~20~~ 33, wherein:

an external peripheral surface of said substantially disk-shaped member is knurled so as to facilitate thread-

ing and unthreading of said substantially disk-shaped member from said nozzle retainer [means for mounting said nozzle member upon the hot melt adhesive dispensing implement].

24. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~20~~ 33, further comprising:

said air passages are defined within said substantially [axial central portion of said substantially] disk-shaped member at positions adjacent to said aperture defined within said substantially axially central portion of said substantially disk-shaped member, and through which said tip portion of said nozzle member can project, for providing integrated swirl air flow with the hot melt adhesive material being dispensed by the hot melt adhesive dispensing nozzle assembly.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~25~~ 33, wherein:

said air fitting ring member is fabricated from a thermoplastic material comprising a polyetheretherketone (PEEK) polymer.

27. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~20~~ 33, wherein:

said fluid dispensing nozzle member and said [means for mounting said] fluid dispensing nozzle [member upon the hot melt adhesive dispensing implement] adaptor are coaxially aligned with respect to each other.

28. (Currently Amended) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim ~~20~~ 33, wherein:

said fluid dispensing nozzle member and said [means for mounting said] fluid dispensing nozzle [member upon the hot melt adhesive dispensing implement] adaptor are disposed substantially perpendicular with respect to each other.

29. (New) A fluid dispensing nozzle assembly for dispensing high-temperature fluids, comprising:

a fluid dispensing nozzle adapter to which a fluid, to be dispensed, is supplied;

a fluid dispensing nozzle member, disposed within said fluid dispensing nozzle adaptor, having a fluid dispensing discharge port defined within a tip portion of said fluid dispensing nozzle member;

a nozzle retainer fixedly connected to said fluid dispensing nozzle adaptor and engaged with said fluid dispensing nozzle member so as to fixedly mount said fluid dispensing nozzle member within said fluid dispensing nozzle adaptor;

an end cap comprising a substantially disk-shaped member fabricated from a thermoplastic material so as not to be heated to elevated temperatures characteristic of the high-temperature fluids being dispensed through said tip portion of said fluid dispensing nozzle member; a front face defined upon an axially downstream portion of said substantially disk-shaped member as considered in the direction in which fluid is being dispensed; means mounted upon said substantially disk-shaped member for fixedly securing said substantially disk-shaped member to said nozzle retainer; air pass-

ages defined within said substantially disk-shaped member;
and a substantially axially central portion of said substantially disk-shaped member, having an aperture defined there-through through which said tip portion of said nozzle member can project so as to dispense a fluid, axially recessed rearwardly from said front face of said substantially disk-shaped member such that when said tip portion of said nozzle member projects through said aperture, said tip portion of said nozzle member is recessed from said front face of said substantially disk-shaped member so as to protect operator personnel from being exposed to said high-temperature nozzle member;

an air fitting ring member rotatably mounted upon said nozzle retainer; and

an air fitting fluidically connected to said air fitting ring member for supplying air to said air passages defined within said substantially disk-shaped member.

30. (New) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim 29, further comprising:

means for fixedly securing said nozzle retainer upon said fluid dispensing nozzle adaptor comprises threaded

means incorporated upon an internal peripheral wall surface thereof for threadedly engaging threaded means incorporated upon an external peripheral wall surface of said nozzle retainer.

31. (New) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim 29, wherein:

said fluid dispensing nozzle member has a longitudinal axis; and

said air fitting ring member is rotatably mounted upon said nozzle retainer so as to be rotatable around said longitudinal axis of said fluid dispensing nozzle member.

32. (New) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim 29, further comprising:

air passageway means defined within said nozzle retainer for fluidically supplying air from said air fitting to said air passages defined within said substantially disk-shaped member.

33. (New) A hot melt adhesive dispensing nozzle assembly for dispensing hot melt adhesive fluids, comprising:

a hot melt adhesive dispensing nozzle adaptor to which a hot melt adhesive, to be dispensed, is supplied;

a hot melt adhesive dispensing nozzle member, disposed within said hot melt adhesive dispensing nozzle adaptor, having a hot melt adhesive dispensing discharge port defined within a tip portion of said hot melt adhesive dispensing nozzle member;

a nozzle retainer fixedly connected to said hot melt adhesive dispensing nozzle adaptor and engaged with said hot melt adhesive dispensing nozzle member so as to fixedly mount said hot melt adhesive nozzle member within said hot melt adhesive dispensing nozzle adaptor;

an end cap comprising a substantially disk-shaped member fabricated from a thermoplastic material so as not to be heated to elevated temperatures characteristic of the high-temperature hot melt adhesive materials being dispensed through said tip portion of said hot melt adhesive dispensing nozzle member; a front face defined upon an axially downstream portion of said substantially disk-shaped member as considered in the direction in which hot melt adhesive material is being dispensed; means mounted upon said substantially

disk-shaped member for fixedly securing said substantially disk-shaped member to said nozzle retainer; air passages defined within said substantially disk-shaped member; and a substantially axially central portion of said substantially disk-shaped member, having an aperture defined therethrough through which said tip portion of said nozzle member can project so as to dispense hot melt adhesive material, axially recessed rearwardly from said front face of said substantially disk-shaped member such that when said tip portion of said nozzle member projects through said aperture, said tip portion of said nozzle member is recessed from said front face of said substantially disk-shaped member so as to protect operator personnel from being exposed to said high-temperature nozzle member;

an air fitting ring member rotatably mounted upon said nozzle retainer; and

an air fitting fluidically connected to said air fitting ring member for supplying air to said air passages defined within said substantially disk-shaped member.

34. (New) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim 33, fur-

ther comprising:

means for fixedly securing said nozzle retainer upon said fluid dispensing nozzle adaptor comprises threaded means incorporated upon an internal peripheral wall surface thereof for threadedly engaging threaded means incorporated upon an external peripheral wall surface of said nozzle retainer.

35. (New) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim 33, wherein:

said fluid dispensing nozzle member has a longitudinal axis; and

said air fitting ring member is rotatably mounted upon said nozzle retainer so as to be rotatable around said longitudinal axis of said fluid dispensing nozzle member.

36. (New) The nozzle assembly as set forth in Claim 33, further comprising:

air passageway means defined within said nozzle re-

tainer for fluidically supplying air from said air fitting to said air passages defined within said substantially disk-shaped member.